

Message Text

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1. LEWIS HAS DEMONSTRATED KNOWLEDGE AND TALENT IN HIS SUBJECT. HE IS COOPERATIVE, RELAXED PERSON WHO ESTABLISHES EASY RAPPORT WITH INDIVIDUAL ARTISTS AND SMALL GROUPS. HE HAS NOT SHOWN STRENGTH IN LECTURING OR MAKING FORMAL PRESENTATIONS TO LARGER GROUPS. HIS WEAKNESS THIS AREA MAY BE PARTIALLY ATTRIBUTABLE TO FATIGUE STEMMING FROM LIGHT CASE OF FLU AND EYE IRRITATION, BOTH OF WHICH HE HAS SUFFERED SINCE ARRIVING SOUTH AFRICA.

2. OPENING HIS SOUTH AFRICAN VISIT IN TRANSVAAL, LEWIS MET WITH ESTABLISHED AND EXPERIENCED ARTISTS -- BLACK AND WHITE, FACULTIES AND STUDENTS IN FINE ARTS, PLUS GENERAL AUDIENCES INTERESTED IN AFRICAN ART AND BLACK AMERICAN ART. HIS VISITS TO ART SCHOOLS AND UNIVERSITIES IN PRETORIA-JOHANNESBURG AREA, INCLUDING UNIVERSITY OF NORTH, ENABLED PROFESSOR LEWIS TO ENGAGE IN DISCUSSIONS WITH FACULTY AND STUDENTS TO GOOD PROGRAM ADVANTAGE. ALL-DAY WORKSHOP FOR BLACK ARTISTS IN AREA AT HOME OF LEADING BLACK SOUTH AFRICAN ARTIST, SYDNEY KUMALO, ATTRACTED FORTY PARTICIPANTS. WORKSHOP PROVIDED RARE OPPORTUNITY FOR THESE ARTISTS TO MEET WITH EACH OTHER. LEWIS ESTABLISHED GOOD

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RAPPORT WITH GROUP, GIVING YOUNGER ARTISTS ADVICE IN THEIR WORK AND

MORE ESTABLISHED ARTISTS ENCOURAGEMENT. PARTICIPANTS SHOWED HIGH INTEREST IN LEWIS TALK ON AFRICAN TRADITIONAL ART.

3. LEWIS FORMAL LECTURES AT PRETORIA'S TWO LEADING ART GALLERIES WERE UNIMPRESSIVE. HIS PREPARATION APPEARED WANTING, ORGANIZATION LACKING, AND DELIVERY WEAK. FOR BOTH LECTURES, "AFRO-AMERICAN ART" AND "TRADITIONAL AFRICAN ART", HE RELIED HEAVILY UPON AUDIO-VISUAL AIDS AND DETAILED NOTES, AS RESULT HE DEMONSTRATED LITTLE DEEP, PERSONAL KNOWLEDGE IN HIS SUBJECT. HIS LECTURES GENERATED NO QUESTIONS, OTHER THAN ONE OR TWO COURTEOUS EFFORTS ON PART OF GALLERY STAFF.

4. STENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES IN LEWIS' PRESENTATIONS IN TRANSVAAL ALSO APPARENT IN HIS FIVE-DAY PROGRAM IN CAPE TOWN AREA WITH BROAD RANGE OF EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, INCLUDING UNIVERSITIES AND ART SCHOOLS, ART ASSOCIATIONS AND INDIVIDUAL ARTISTS. AT SESSION AT UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN (MICHAELIS SCHOOL) TO GROUP OF COLORED AND WHITE ART STUDENTS, AND AT WORKSHOPS AT LANGA HIGH SCHOOL FOR 25 AFRICAN ART TEACHERS FROM NUMEROUS SCHOOLS, AS WELL AS AT ZONNEBLOEM ART CENTER, FOR 25 COLORED AND WHITE ARTISTS, LEWIS EXPERIENCE AND ABILITY AS ART EDUCATOR EMERGED IN GENERATING DISCUSSIONS AND EXCHANGES OF IDEAS. HIS FORMAL LECTURES WERE LIMITED LARGELY TO REPEATS BEFORE VARIOUS BODIES OF TWO LECTURES PRESENTED IN TRANSVAAL. FORMAT OF THESE PRESENTATIONS WAS SAME AS THAT FOLLOWED IN PRETORIA, AS WERE RESULTS.

5. IN POST VIEW, LEWIS TALENTS STRONGEST IN COMMUNICATION THROUGH INTER-PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS BUILT UP THROUGH RELAXED, RATHER INFORMAL ASSOCIATIONS WITH ARTISTS AND ART TEACHERS AND THROUGH ART WORKSHOPS. THRUST OF LEWIS PROGRAM THROUGHOUT BALANCE OF HIS STAY WILL BE IN THIS PATTERN TO EXTENT POSSIBLE.
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